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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Appln. of: Toru Kohda

Appln. No.: 10/551,629

Filed: September 30, 2005

For: PIPE JOINT AND SOCKET FOR PIPE  
JOINT

Attorney Docket No: 10210/30

Examiner: Ripley, Jay R

Art Unit: 3679

Mail Stop IDS  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**Information Disclosure Statement**

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §1.56 and §§1.97-1.98, and more particularly in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.97(c), Applicant hereby cites the following reference(s):

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS		
DOCUMENT NUMBER <small>Number-Kind Code (if known)</small>	DATE	COUNTRY
JP S47-42013	12/19/1972	JPO
JP S51-69119	06/01/1975	JPO
JP S57-49030	10/27/1982	JPO
JP H03-042305	09/04/1991	JPO
JP P2000-266264A	09/26/2000	JPO

**OTHER ART – NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS**

Translation of Japanese Office Action issued February 6, 2007 for Japanese patent application  
no. JP 042283

Applicant is enclosing Form PTO-1449 (one sheet), along with a copy of each listed reference for which a copy is required under 37 C.F.R. §1.98 The following is an explanation pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(3)(i).

*Japanese Utility Model Application Publication S47-42013;*

*Publication Date: December 19, 1972. (USPTO Form 1449, Line A1)*

A pipe coupling is disclosed in which when a plug 2 is inserted into a socket 1, the plug 2 moves locking balls 4 radially outward so that the locking balls 4 are forcibly engages with a slanted surface 14a of an annular member 14 to move the annular member 14 rearward and finally fall into a groove 6 of the plug 2.

*Japanese Utility Model Application Publication S51-69119;*

*Publication Date: June 1, 1975. (USPTO Form 1449, Line A2)*

Figs. 2 and 3 shows a pipe coupling in which a sleeve 3 is allowed to move in a direction "a" to release locking balls 5 only when a notch 12 formed in the sleeve 3 is axially aligned with a pin 13 provided on the coupling body 1.

*Japanese Utility Model Application Publication S57-49030;*

*Publication Date: October 27, 1982. (USPTO Form 1449, Line A3)*

A pipe coupling is disclosed in which when a plug 10 is inserted into a socket 30, a retainer 46 is moved inwardly by the plug 10 and, then, the locking balls 38 fall into a groove 14 of the plug 10 so that the sleeve 42 released from the locking balls 38 is moved forward to lock the locking ball 38 in the groove.

*Japanese Utility Model Publication H03-042305. (USPTO Form 1449, Line A4)*

A pipe coupling is disclosed in which a sleeve 4 mounted on a socket 1 can be axially moved only when a notch 13 of the sleeve is axially aligned with a stopper 14 fixedly mounted on the socket 1.

Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner's consideration of the above reference(s) and entry thereof into the record of this application.

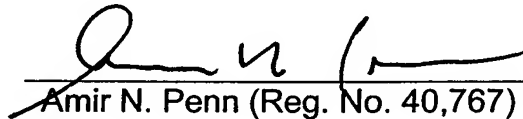
By submitting this Statement, Applicant is attempting to fully comply with the duty of candor and good faith mandated by 37 C.F.R. §1.56. As such, this Statement is not intended to constitute an admission that any of the enclosed references, or other information referred to therein, constitutes "prior art" or is otherwise "material to patentability," as that phrase is defined in 37 C.F.R. §1.56(a).

Applicant has calculated a processing fee in the amount of \$180.00 to be due under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) in connection with the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. Applicant has enclosed a check covering this fee, or authorized charging the fee to a deposit account or credit card, as indicated in the Transmittal accompanying this Information Disclosure Statement.

Respectfully submitted,

September 6, 2007

Date

  
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Amir N. Penn (Reg. No. 40,767)